

# Federated Identity:

What is Federation?

How does it work?

Why is it secure?

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# Agenda for Today

- Establish a common vocabulary
- What are the business needs?
- What is InCommon?
- What is “Federation”?
- How does it work?
  - Why is it more secure?
- What does it mean for the research community and NSF?

If we have time...

- What’s happening with the research community and Federal eAuth?

# Some terminology...

# What is identity management?

- Organization: The policies, processes, and tools used to “assure” that IT systems and applications are made available only to appropriate persons
- Individual: The persons I am working with and the systems I am using really are who/what they say they are. And no one can impersonate me, or read or change my information
- Identity Management has greatly increased in importance as IT systems and applications are used to perform more and more of the work of society and commerce
- Today, NSF requires an NSF ID and password to access FastLane and Research.gov

-G. Strawn

# What is federated identity?

- “Federated identity management allows users to log in using their local authentication credentials (username and password assigned by their institution) to access electronic resources hosted at other institutions belonging to the same identity federation.”  
([www.incommonfederation.org](http://www.incommonfederation.org))
- Designed to address:
  - multiple passwords required for multiple applications
  - scaling the account management of multiple applications
  - security issues associated with accessing third-party services
  - privacy
  - interoperability within and across organizational boundaries

# “Identity Providers”

- End user organizations act as ‘identity providers’ (IdPs) and optionally ‘service providers’ (SPs defined on next slide)
- Identity providers (IdPs) supply user information
  - Universities
  - NSF should be the IdP for its employees
- Benefits
  - Enhances security
    - IdP controls what information is shared
    - Users need to remember only one username and password
  - Users and organizations are responsible for their own information
  - Ease of use

# “Service Providers”

- Service Providers (SPs) “consume the IdP’s information and get access to secure content in order to provide the appropriate access to services
- Benefits
  - No need to maintain your own user database
    - Authentication is performed by the IdP
    - Can authorize per institution, role, and/or entitlement
  - Reduced user support requirements
  - Reduced compliance burden
    - Less storage/processing of personal data
  - Accurate implementation of license conditions
  - Users take better care of credentials
  - Organizations take better care of assertions

# Authentication vs. Authorization

- Authentication: the process of verifying that you
- Authorization: the process of verifying that an authenticated person has the authority to perform a certain operation
- Authentication must precede authorization



# Levels of Assurance

- OMB M04-04: e-Authentication Guidance for Federal Agencies  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy04/m04-04.pdf>)
- NIST Special Publication 800-63-1: Electronic Authentication Guideline  
([http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/800-63-rev1/SP800-63-Rev1\\_Dec2008.pdf](http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/800-63-rev1/SP800-63-Rev1_Dec2008.pdf))
- Electronic Risk and Requirements Assessment (e-RA) Tool  
([http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication/drilldown\\_ea.cfm?action=ea\\_era](http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication/drilldown_ea.cfm?action=ea_era))

# Short Summary of the Asserted Identity's Validity

## Level of Assurance

- Level 1: Little or no confidence
- Level 2: Some confidence
- Level 3: High confidence
- Level 4: Very high confidence

# It's About Trust...

# Shibboleth Shibboleth.

- Shib what?
- Techniques and software developed as part of NSF Middleware Initiative (CISE/NMI)
- Standards based, open source software package for web single sign-on across or within organizational boundaries
- Neither an authentication or authorization system
- Secure exchange of messages between two parties (Identity Provider and Service Provider)
- Authentication handled by institution/LA/RBC (devoled authentication)
- Authorization achieved by an exchange of attributes (such as 'member of an institution')
- Providers need to sign up to a 'trust' agreement
- Vendor solutions (Oracle, Sun, CA/Netegrity...)
- An implementation of SAML (Security Assertion Mark-Up Language)

# SAML



- SAM who?
- *Security Assertion Markup Language* (SAML)
  - Used for exchanging authentication and authorization data between security domains, that is, between an *identity provider* (a producer of assertions) and a *service provider* (a consumer of assertions)
  - XML-based standard
- OASIS SAML [http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc\\_home.php?wg\\_abbrev=security](http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=security)
- Open SAML 2.0 now available
  - Already heavily used by Verisign, Tata, etc.
- NSF is using SAML 1.01
- Federations are migrating to SAML 2.0
- Action item for NSF: migrate to SAML 2.0

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saml>

# What are the business needs?

# The Changing Environment

- Many more services require authentication
  - At work
    - Travel
    - Emergency Alerts
    - HR-related
    - Training
    - Benefits
    - Professional organizations
  - At home
    - Shopping (Lands End, Amazon, eBay, airlines...)
    - Google Email/Apps, Yahoo, AOL...
    - Social networking: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, MySpace...
    - Financial management: Banking, credit cards, investment, bill paying

# The Changing Environment (more)

- Many more services require authentication
  - At school/university
    - Scholarship is done via the net
    - Access needed within the institution
      - Library, food services, HR, registration...
    - Access needed outside the institution...
      - Collaboration is worldwide
      - State agencies
      - Federal agencies



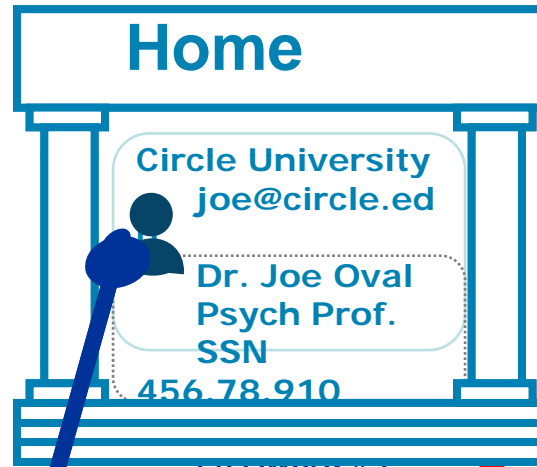
# The Challenge....

- More and more services
- More and more “trusted” partners
- Dependent on assertion of “eligibility”
  - Various criteria and representations
  - Who can assert “student-ness” ? “research-ness”?
- More Personal Identifying Information (PII) --> less personal privacy AND a higher level of service
  - Varying levels of assurance required
- Anonymity sometimes required
- Broader constituencies to worry about

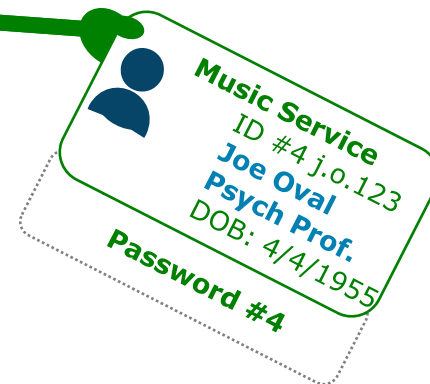
# What problems are we trying to solve?

- Reduce the need for multiple usernames and passwords
- Reduce amount of personal data held by third parties
- Reduce the duplication of effort across multiple
- Enable publishers, service and network providers to have a common interface for multiple systems
- Ease the difficulty in sharing resources between institutions and organizations
- Make revocation of access/services easier

# Challenging Way



Service Providers

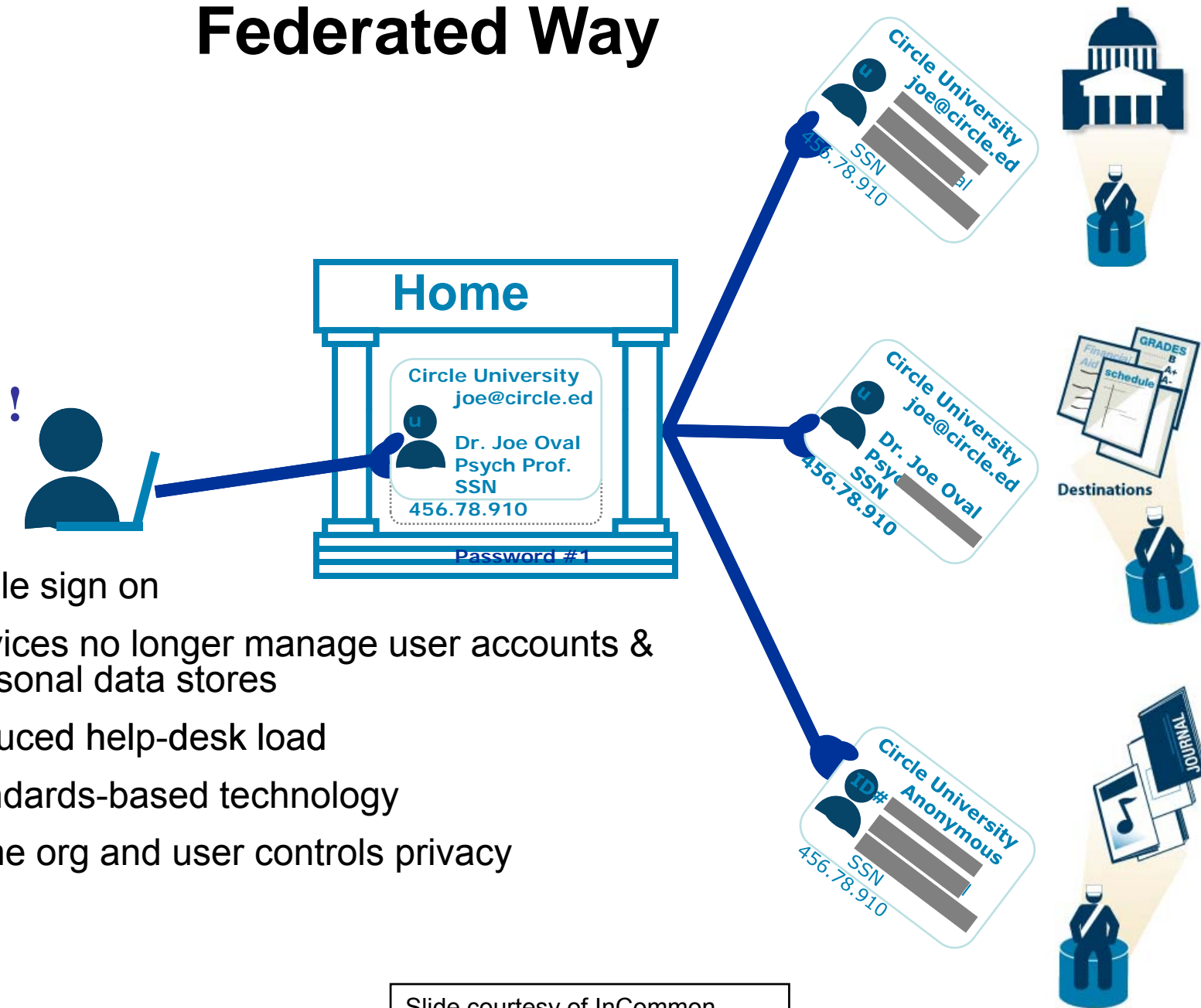


No coordination  
Proprietary code

Batch uploads

Slide courtesy of InCommon

# Federated Way



1. Single sign on
2. Services no longer manage user accounts & personal data stores
3. Reduced help-desk load
4. Standards-based technology
5. Home org and user controls privacy

Slide courtesy of InCommon

# Why does the community want this?

- It's easier
  - Researchers
    - One username and password to remember (single sign on) for multiple campus applications, access to NIH and NSF and ...
    - Ability to use same credentials with other agencies
      - NIH is already accepting InCommon credentials for several external application
    - More control over their own information
  - SPOs
    - After initial authorization, won't have to retrieve NSF IDs for researchers
- Enhances security
  - Eliminates a lot of “middle people”
- Often-requested new feature for Research.gov

# What is the value to the “institution”?

- One solution for intra- and inter-domain single-sign on
- Ability to manage access control by groups or for roles
- Allows personalization of services without releasing identity
- Once implemented, extensions to other applications are much easier
  - Just manage attributes that are released to new targets

# What value is there to the user?

- Web single-sign on across a worldwide set of sites
- Fewer passwords
- Tools to manage privacy
- A 'trusted party' is asserting values and eligibility
- NOT tied to IP address or browser

-Courtesy of Steve Carmody, Brown University

# Why is this important to NSF?

- Provides easier authenticated access to services the research and education community wants and needs to reach
  - Perfect fit for access to Research.gov and FastLane
- Keeps NSF in a leadership role for use of “Federated Identity”
- Enhanced security
  - More work done electronically “behind the scenes”
  - No local IDs and passwords
  - Users won’t need to write down multiple passwords
- Reduces NSF’s need to manage accounts
  - Institutions and individuals at those member institutions become responsible for the integrity of their own information
- Unified authentication methods build on standards
  - Much more scalable
  - Easier to bring new “customers” online



# What is InCommon? and What does “Federation” mean?

# InCommon

“InCommon eliminates the need for researchers, students, and educators to maintain multiple, passwords and usernames. Identity providers manage the levels of their users' privacy and information exchange. InCommon uses SAML-based authentication and authorization systems (such as [Shibboleth®](#)) to enable scalable, trusted collaborations among its community of participants.”

- InCommon Federation ([www.incommonfederation.org](http://www.incommonfederation.org))
  - Mission: create and support a common framework for trustworthy shared management of access to on-line resources in support of education and research in the US
- US Research and Education Federation
  - Separate entity with its own governance
  - Operations managed by Internet2
  - Members are degree granting accredited organizations and their partners

The InCommon logo features the word "InCommon" in a blue, sans-serif font. The "In" is in a lighter blue, and "Common" is in a darker blue. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located to the right of the word.

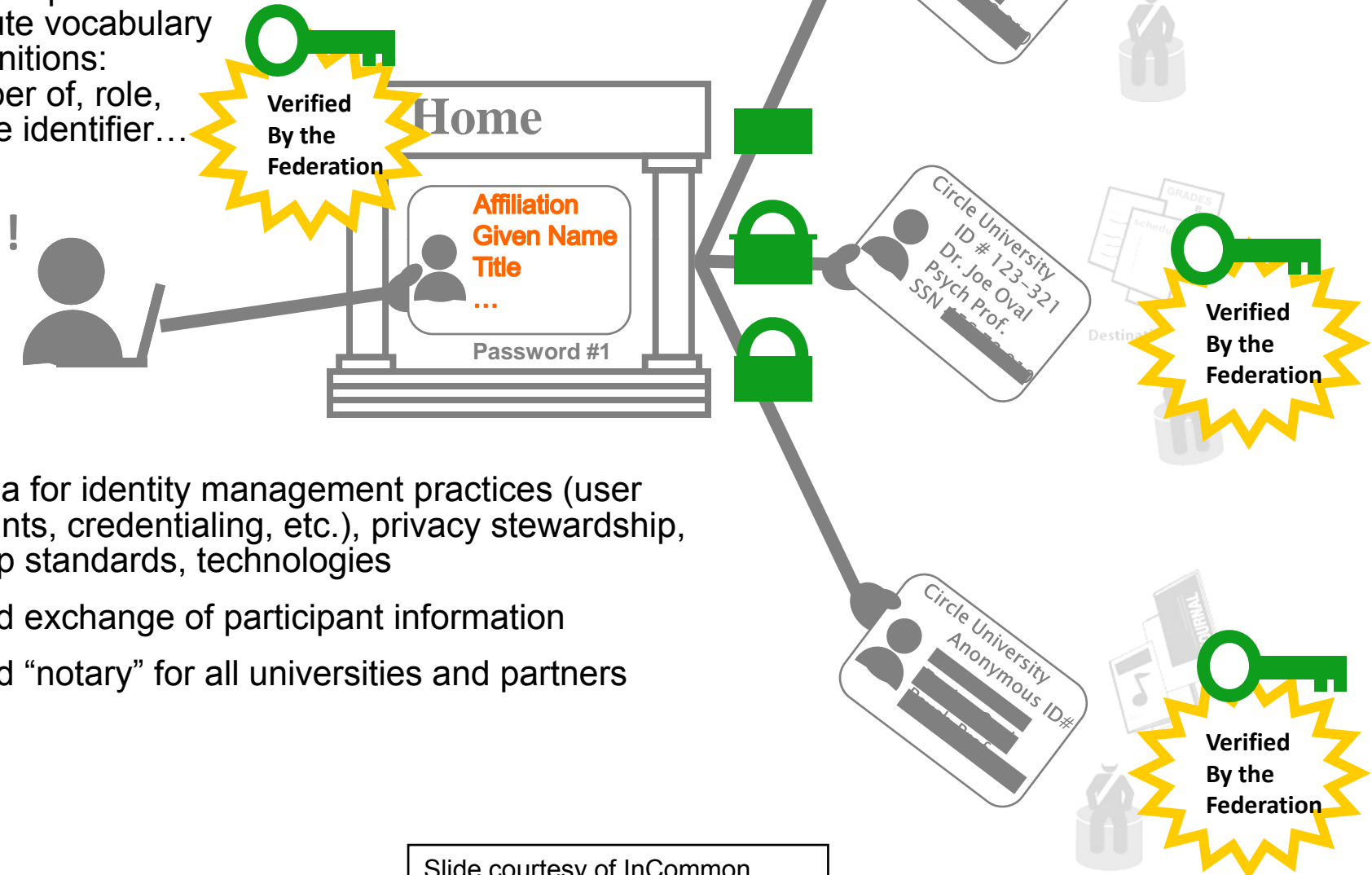
# What is “Federation”?

- A group of member organizations who agree to a set of rules
- An independent body, managing the trust relationships between members
- Publishers, agencies and resource providers act as ‘service providers’ (SPs)
- InCommon is a Federation



# Role of Federation

1. Agreed upon attribute vocabulary & definitions: member of, role, unique identifier...



2. Criteria for identity management practices (user accounts, credentialing, etc.), privacy stewardship, interop standards, technologies
3. Trusted exchange of participant information
4. Trusted “notary” for all universities and partners

Slide courtesy of InCommon

# What services does the Federation provide?

- Rules that binds members:
  - Make accurate statements to other members
  - Keep federation systems and data secure
  - Use personal data correctly
  - Resolve problems within the Federation
    - Not by legal action
- Guidance, examples, support
  - How to comply with the Rules
  - How to work with other members
    - Common definitions, etc.

The InCommon logo, featuring the word "InCommon" in a blue sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right. The logo is set against a light blue rectangular background.

# What services does the Federation provide?

- Operational management
  - Registration mechanism for SPs and IdPs
  - Adding new members to the federation & updating existing members' metadata
  - Fault finding and trouble shooting
  - Compatibility testing of server certificates and CA Qualification
  - Technical and operational documentation
  - Ongoing federation development
  - Reporting

# What does the Federation do?

- Uses shared technology
- Provides “common data” or “attributes” to exchange
- Enables scaling beyond the technology
  - Rules of engagement
  - Information about how to connect
- Performs vetting of organizations and representatives
- Maintains member information



















# Levels of Assurance

<b>M04-04/ NIST 800-63</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Application Risk</b>	<b>InCommon</b>
<b>Level 1: Little or no confidence</b>	<b>User ID and Password SAML</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Bronze</b>
<b>Level 2: Some confidence</b>	<b>User ID and Password SAML</b>	<b>Moderate (money)</b>	<b>Silver</b>
<b>Level 3: High Confidence</b>	<b>Tokens and certificates PKI</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Gold</b>
<b>Level 4: Very high confidence</b>	<b>Tokens and certificates PKI</b>	<b>Highest</b>	<b>[Platinum?]</b>



## Federation Metadata

 Silver	 	<b>College A</b> IdP: name, key, url, contacts, etc. SP1: name, key, url, contacts, etc. SP2: name, key, url, contacts, etc.
	 	<b>University B</b> IdP: name, key, url, contacts, etc. SP1: name, key, url, contacts, etc.
 Bronze	 	<b>University C</b> IdP: name, key, url, contacts, etc. SP1: name, key, url, contacts, etc.
	 	<b>Partner 1</b> SP1: name, key, url, contacts, etc.
 Silver	 	<b>Partner 2</b> SP1: name, key, url, contacts, etc. SP2: name, key, url, contacts, etc.
 Silver	 	<b>Partner 3 ...</b>

InCommon  
Federal  
Compliant  
Assurance  
Levels

Slide courtesy of InCommon

Verified  
By the  
Federation

Verified  
By the  
Federation

Verified  
By the  
Federation

# US InCommon Membership and Federation Highlights

- Current InCommon Members
  - 96 Colleges and Universities
    - More every week
    - Growth almost exponential
  - ~~8~~ 6 Government and Nonprofit Labs, Research Centers, and Agencies
  - 33 Corporations
  - More pending
- Other Federations
  - State university systems
  - Community college libraries
  - Medical associations
  - DoJ and DoD
- All do SAML; most are Shib



-Source: K. Klingenstein, Internet2/InCommon

# 96 Colleges and Universities

<p> Arizona State University  Brown University  California Polytechnic State U - San Luis Obispo  California State University, Office of the Chancellor  Carleton College  Case Western Reserve University  Clemson University  College of William and Mary  Colorado State University  Columbia University  Cornell University  Dartmouth  Duke University  Emory University  Florida State University  George Mason University  Georgetown University  Hampden-Sydney College  Indiana University  James Madison University  Johns Hopkins  Lafayette College  Liberty University  Massachusetts Institute of Technology  Medical University of South Carolina  Miami University  Michigan State University  Michigan Technological University  New York University  North Carolina State University  Northern Arizona University  Northern Michigan University </p>	<p> Northwestern University  Ohio State University  Ohio University  Old Dominion University  Penn State  Purdue University  Ramapo College of New Jersey  Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  Seattle Central Community College  Stanford University  Stark State College of Technology  Stevens Institute of Technology  Stony Brook University  Sweet Briar College  Texas A &amp; M University  The University of Chicago  The University of Findlay  The University of Michigan  The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  University at Buffalo, SUNY  University of Alabama at Birmingham  University of Arizona  University of California, Berkeley  University of California, Davis  University of California, Irvine  University of California, Los Angeles  University of California, Merced  University of California, Office of the President  University of California, Riverside  University of California, San Diego  University of California, San Francisco  University of California, Santa Cruz </p>	<p> University of Colorado at Boulder  University of Dayton  University of Florida  University of Houston-Downtown  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  University of Iowa  University of Mary Washington  University of Maryland  University of Maryland Baltimore County  University of Maryland, Baltimore  University of Massachusetts Amherst  University of Minnesota  University of Missouri System  University of Nebraska - Lincoln  University of Nevada, Reno  University of Northern Colorado  University of Northwestern Ohio  University of Richmond  University of Rochester  University of South Carolina  University of South Florida  University of Southern California  University of Utah  University of Vermont  University of Virginia  University of Washington  University of Wisconsin - Madison  University of Wisconsin - Whitewater  Vanderbilt University  Virginia Commonwealth University  Virginia Polytechnic Institute &amp; State University  Virginia State University </p>
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# Members: Government and Nonprofit Laboratories, Research Centers, and Agencies

## Members

- Energy Sciences Network (ESNet)
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
- National Institutes of Health
- **TeraGrid**
- **National Science Foundation as of 1/29/2009**

## Pending

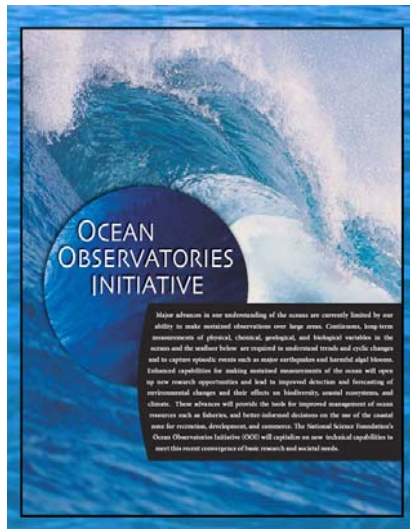
- ***LIGO***
- ***OOI***
- ***Department of Education***

In the virtual organizations, there is a bit of a “chicken and egg” problem as the member institutions have to adopt SAML and Shib before the VO can make use of it.

## Considering

- ***NEON***
- ***OSG***

# NSF Large Facilities Are Already Joining InCommon



Ocean  
Observatories  
Initiative

Laser Interferometer  
Gravitational-Wave  
Observatory



TeraGrid

- piloting/test bed now
- Expect XD (TG phase 3) to use it in production

Considering InCommon membership:  
Long Term Ecological Research [lternet.edu]  
National Ecological Observatory Network [neoninc.org]

# 33 Sponsored Partners

## Members

- Absolute Software, Inc.
- **Apple - iTunes U\***
- Burton Group
- Cengage Learning, Inc.
- e2Campus by Omnilert, LLC
- **EBSCO Publishing\***
- **Elsevier\***
- Houston Academy of Medicine - Texas Medical
- Identit-e
- Internet2
- **JSTOR\***
- **Kuali Foundation\***
- **Microsoft\***
- National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education (NITLE)
- **National Student Clearinghouse\***  
(student loan processing)
- NG Web Solutions
- OCLC
- OhioLink - The Ohio Library & Information Network
- Omnilert, LLC
- Outside The Classroom
- PeopleAdmin, Inc.

- ProQuest LLC
- ProtectNetwork
- RefWorks, LLC
- Safari Books Online
- Students Only Inc.
- SumTotal Systems Inc.
- Symplicity Corporation
- Travel Solutions, Inc.
- Trondent Development Corp.
- Turnitin
- UniversityTickets
- WebAssign

## Pending

- **Google\***
- **student service companies\***
- *medical consortia*

***\*Incentive for more colleges and universities to join***

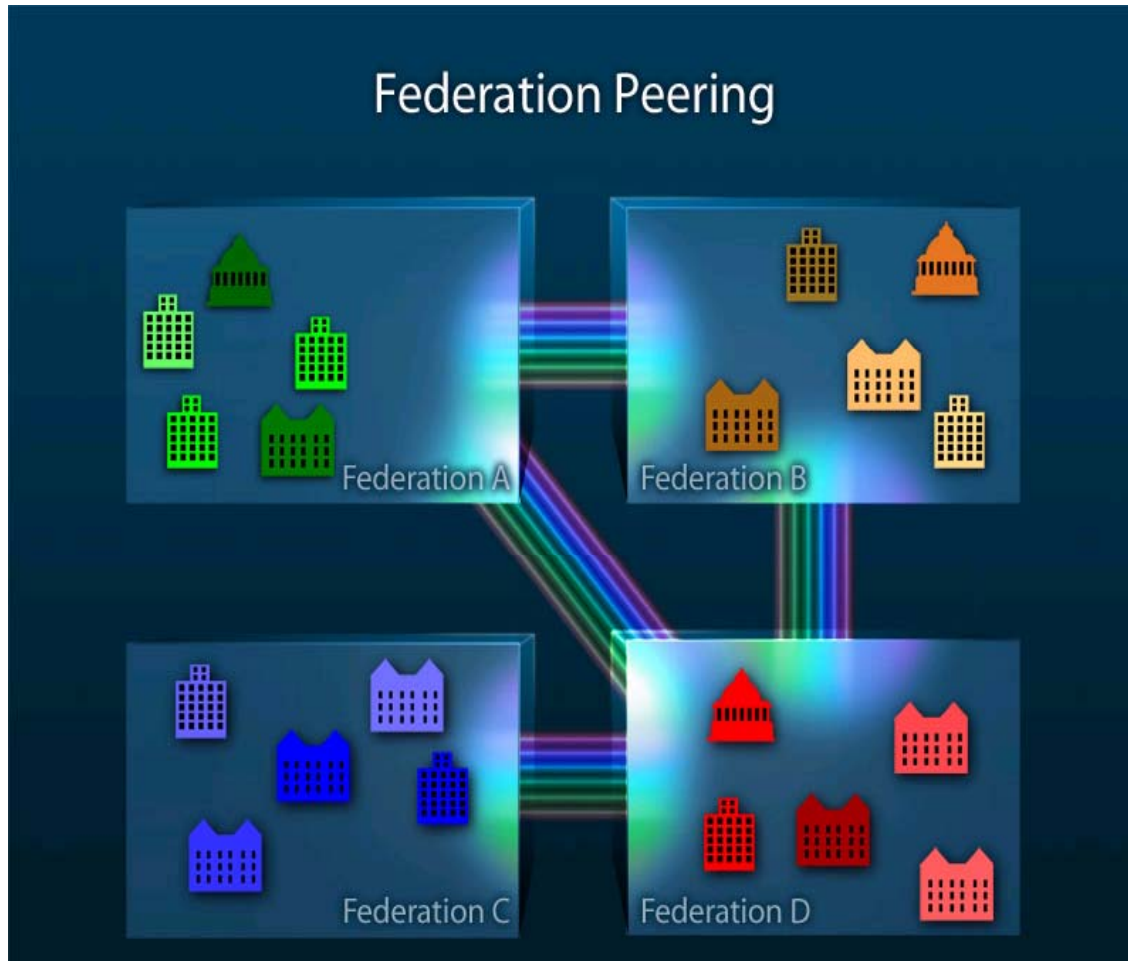
**The research community will benefit as institutions opt for federated services to meet administrative needs, eg student loan processing.**

# International Federation Highlights

- International Federation Highlights
  - Numerous countries including Norway, Switzerland, Finland, Spain, France, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Canada, etc.
  - Several countries at 100% coverage, including Norway, Switzerland and Finland
  - Community served varies somewhat by country, but all are multi-application and include higher education
  - UK intends a single federation for HE and Further Education ~ tens of millions of users
  - Real use cases involving international team science now driving interfederation peering urgency
- All do SAML; most are Shib
- Working to “peer” Federations

-Source: K. Klingenstein, Internet2/InCommon

# Peering Parameters



## Parameters:

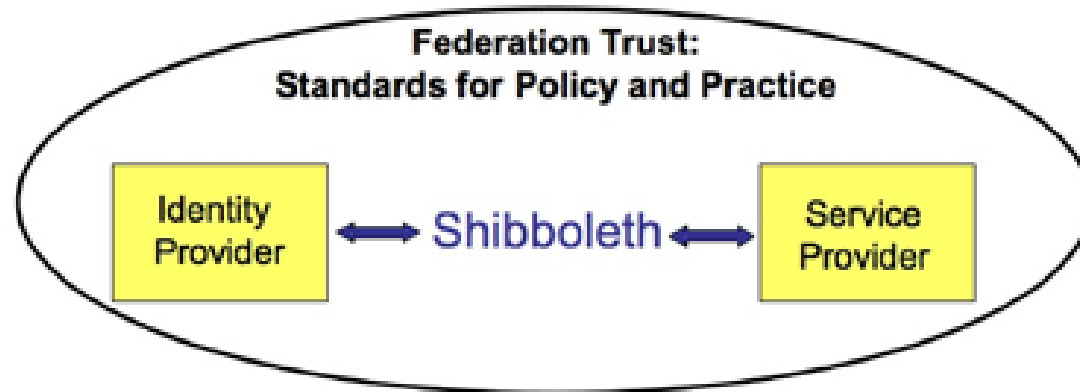
- **LOA**
- **Attribute mapping**
- **Legal structures**
  - **Liability**
  - **Adjudication**
- **Metadata**
  - **VO Support**
- **Economics**
- **Privacy**



# How does it work?

# How does it work?

Home  
institution



## •The Players

- IdP authenticates the browser user, and provides Attribute Assertions describing the user
- SP validates the Assertions, makes an Access Control decision, and provides resources

## •How is it Implemented?

- Messages sequence between the IdP and the SP
- Most messages move through the user's Web browser

## •Metadata defines the:

- Trust framework
- Trusted parties
- Attributes the SPs want

## •Importance of

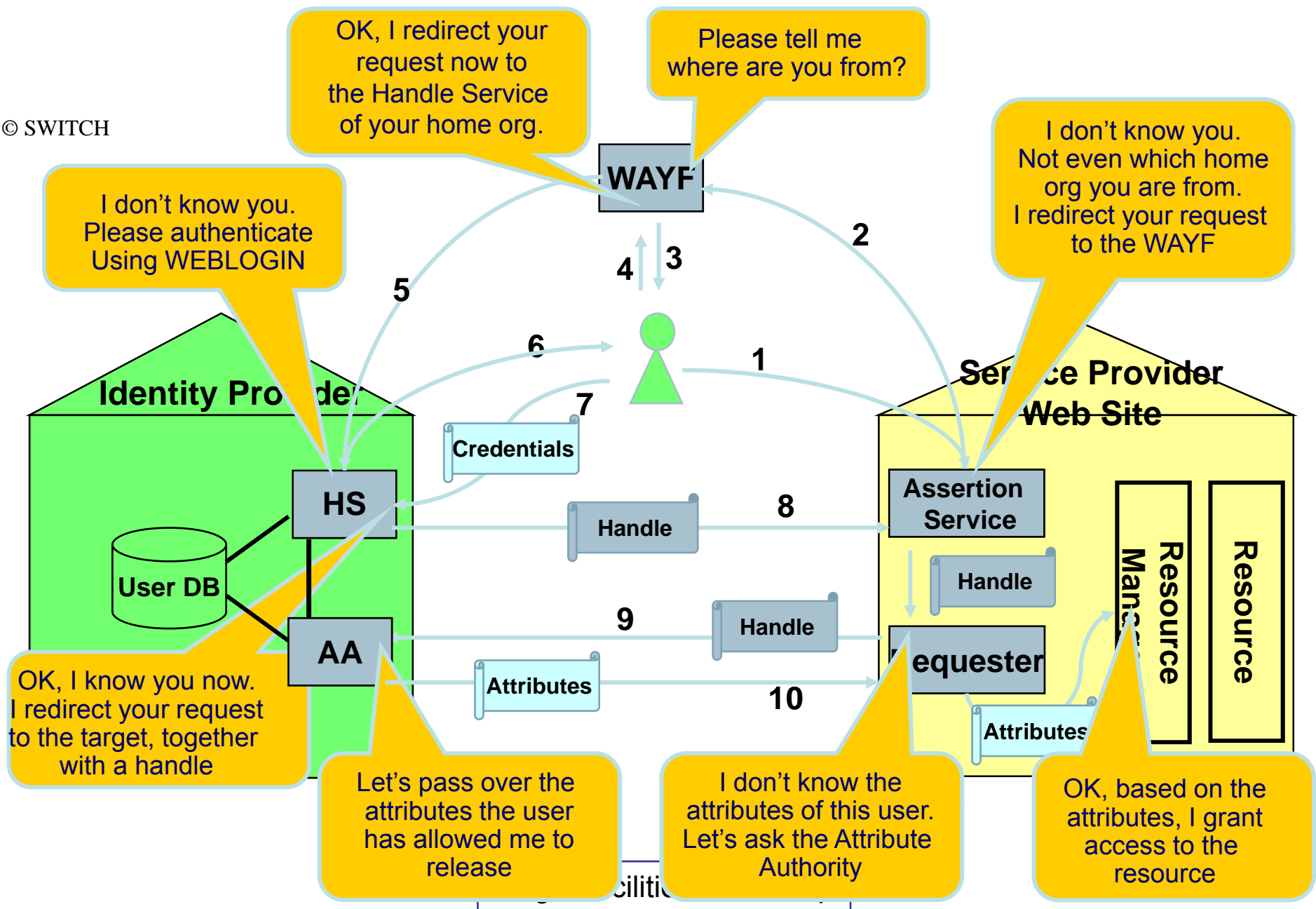
- Policy
- Trust

# R&D to Market

- TCP/IP
  - first as a technology
  - then as a market-maker
- SAML/Shibboleth
  - first as a technology
  - then as a market-maker
- Collaboration tools and collaboration management platforms
- Many of these technologies developed with NSF NMI/CISE (now OCI) support
  - “Shibboleth” and other Middleware

# What is WAYF?

- “Where are you from?”
- Verification method for Shib
- Developed in the UK



What does this all mean for  
NSF?

How are we implementing  
this here?

# What will NSF's customers be able to do?

- Research.gov
  - Login with credentials issued by their home institution
  - View Proposal Status
    - NSF
    - USDA/CSREES
    - Army Research Office
    - More in progress
  - Create and submit Federal Financial Reports to NSF
  - Maintain their user profiles
  - And much more...



- FastLane
  - Login with credentials issued by their home institution
  - Access and use current PI/co-PI suite of functions
  - Perform Research Administration
  - Use proposal and award functions



# Planned Pilot

- Demonstrate “proof of concept” with Ohio State University - complete
- Research.gov
  - Connect other institutions
    - Pennsylvania State University
    - University of Washington
    - Georgetown University
    - Colorado State University
    - University of California-Davis
  - Expand to other Research.gov institutions
- FastLane
  - Timeline to be determined
  - Successfully demonstrated in December 2006

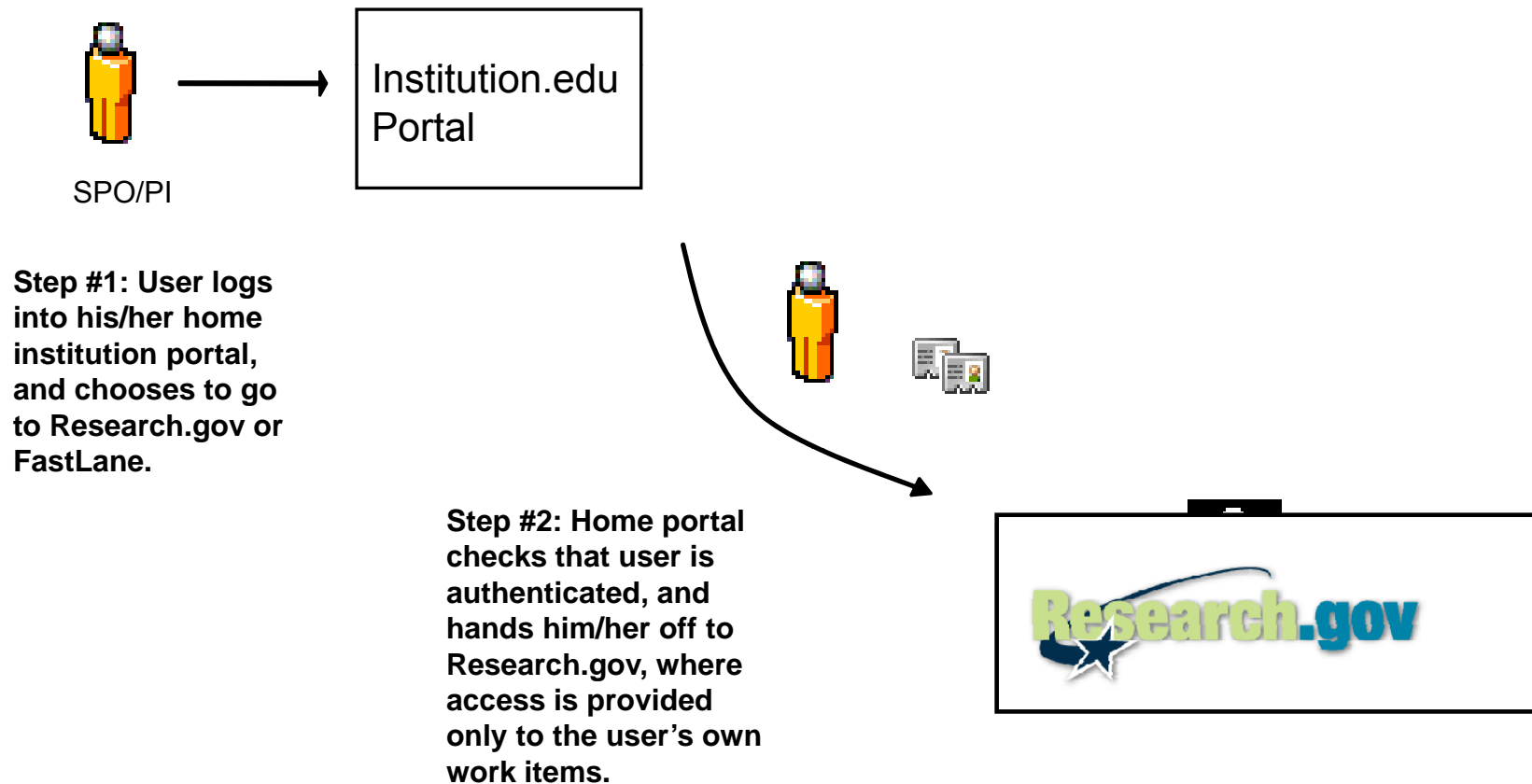




## Shared Data (minimum)

- Common Name
- Given Name
- Surname
- Middle Name (init)
- Business email
- Institutional affiliation of credential issuer
- Authentication LOA (level of assurance of identity) – will be 1 for this round
- a unique identifier for the user

# How will it at work at NSF?

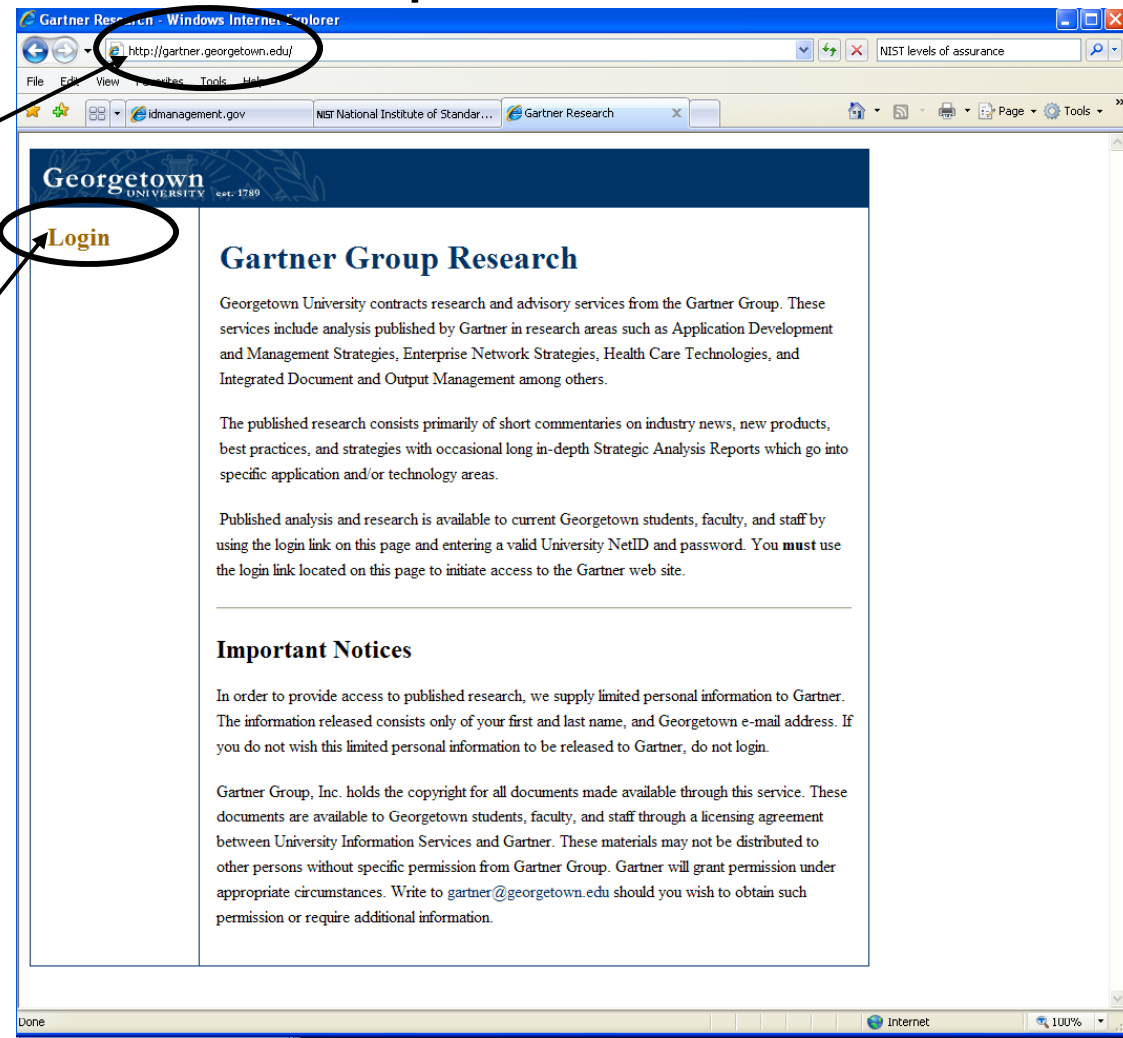


# An example of a current service at an IdP...

## Step 1: start

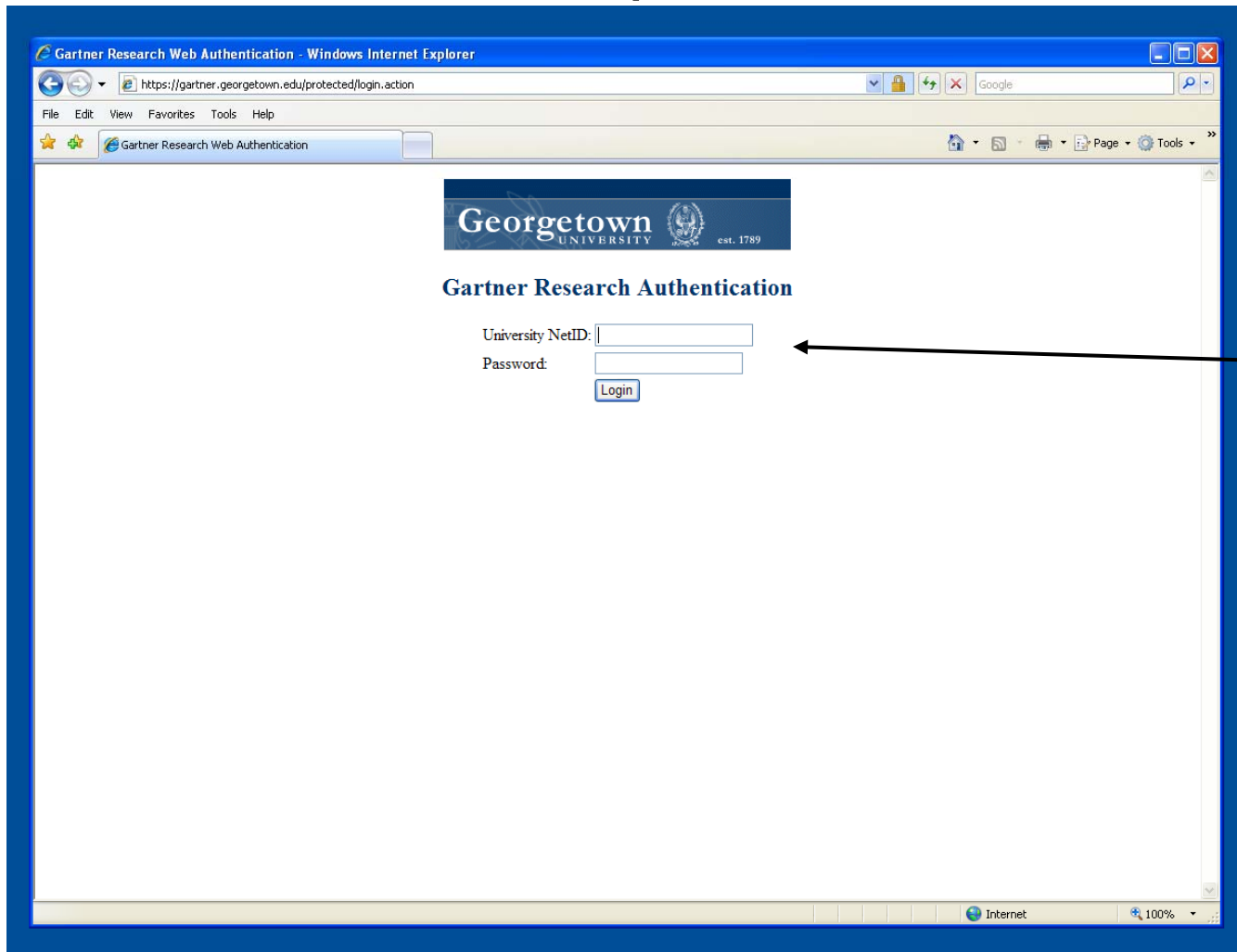
1. User may click from SPO home page or type <http://nsf.georgetown.edu>, for example

2. User (reads notice) and clicks "Login"



# An example of a current service...

## Step 2: authentication



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Gartner Research Web Authentication - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar displays "https://gartner.georgetown.edu/protected/login.action". The page features the Georgetown University logo at the top, followed by the heading "Gartner Research Authentication". Below this, there are two input fields: "University NetID:" and "Password:". A "Login" button is positioned below the password field. An arrow points from the text box on the right to the "University NetID:" input field.

“Ardoth Hassler” logs in with unique credential, eg. “hasslera”, and password. After authentication, her information is passed to service provider.

# An example of a current service...

## Step 3: access

User recognized and now has access to offerings available under license agreement.

clients to make the right dec - Windows Internet Explorer

Ardoth Hassler Sign-Off | Contact Gartner

**Gartner.** SEARCH RESEARCH  [Advanced](#) [Browse](#) [Preferences](#) [Help](#) [Try Search Beta](#)

[Client Services](#) [Products & Services](#) [Analysts & Consultants](#) [Events](#) [About](#) [Select a Gartner site](#)

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London  
[Business Intelligence Summit](#)  
9-11 March 2009  
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**IT and The Economy**  
Cost Optimization  
[Steps You Can Take Now](#)

**Research Fast Finder**

MARKETS	TOPICS	INDUSTRIES
Statistics, forecasts and market analysis you can trust.	More than research - insight into your most critical issues.	Understanding technologies and services that deliver business value.

# Example of “launch” at NSF

The screenshot shows the Research.gov website. At the top is the header with the logo and navigation links. A callout box on the left points to the 'Login' section in the left sidebar, which contains a dropdown menu with 'NSF' selected, and links for 'Get Start' and 'Register New Institution'. The main content area features a banner, a 'Services' section with links to 'Research Spending and Results' and 'Policy Library', and an 'Events' section on the right.

**Research.gov** POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Home | Contact Us | Site Map | Help

Welcome Anonymous | April 07, 2009

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**Who We Are**

Led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Research.gov is a partnership of federal research-oriented grant making agencies with a shared vision of increasing customer service for the research community, while streamlining and standardizing business processes amongst partner agencies. [MORE](#)

**Service Offerings**

[Policy Library](#)

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[Partnership Model](#)

[Partner Agency List](#)

[Latest News](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Login**

[Login](#) NSF [Get Start](#) [Register New Institution](#)

**Why should I Use Research.gov?**

Get the answers >>

**Services**

Online tools to help you manage your grants

Welcome to Research.gov. Below is a list of services that we offer. Select a service from below to find out more.

**Research Spending and Results**

NSF and NASA award information available to be searched by the public in compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

**Policy Library**

An electronic library that consolidates Federal and agency-specific policies, guidelines and procedures for use by Federal agencies and the awardee community. Agency-specific documents are included only for Research.gov partner agencies.

**Events**

**April 4 - 8, 2009**

[SRA Northeast Section Meeting](#)

Partnership meeting

**April 5 - 8, 2009**

[NCURA Region VI/VII Meeting](#)

Partnership meeting

**April 20 - 21, 2009**

[SRA Ohio Chapter Meeting](#)

Partnership meeting

[View All Events](#)

User selects login path

Large Facilities Workshop



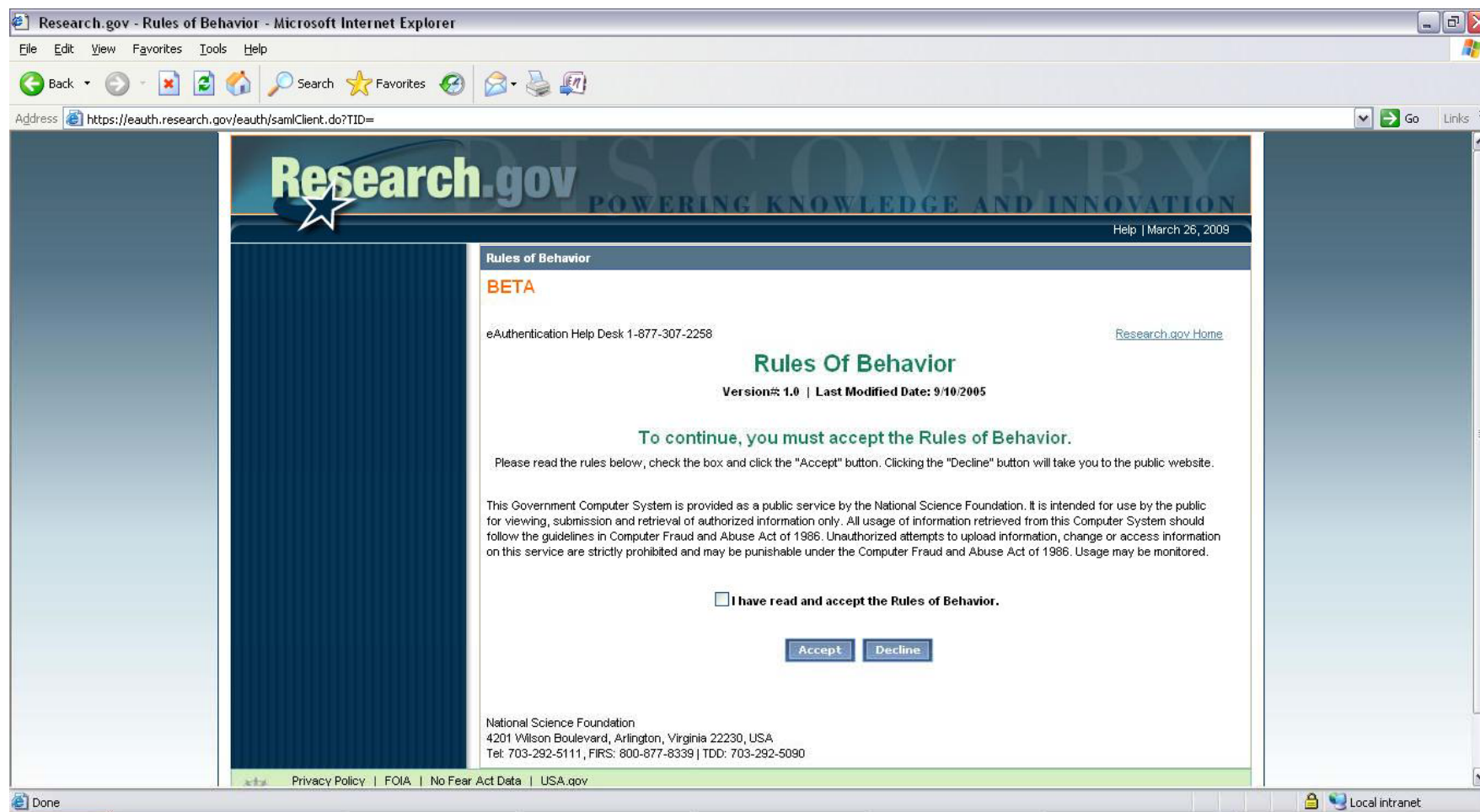
# Example of “launch” from USDA

Or,  
user  
logs in



The screenshot shows the USDA website interface. At the top is the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture". Below this is a horizontal banner with several small images. A navigation bar contains links: Home, About USDA, Newsroom, Agencies & Offices, Careers, Help, Contact Us, and En Español. On the left side, there is a "Search" box with a "Go" button and a dropdown menu set to "All USDA". Below the search box is a "My USDA" section with links for "Login" and "Customize | New User". The "Login" link is circled, and an arrow points from a text box on the left to it. Below "My USDA" is a "Browse by Audience" section with a dropdown menu. The main content area shows "You are here: Home" and a "THREAT ADVISORY" status set to "elevated". The "In the News" section features two articles: "Vice President Joe Biden and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announce Recovery Act Funding for Single Family Housing (April 1, 2009)" and "Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Reinstates Base Acreage on Federally-Owned Land (April 2, 2009)". On the right, there is a "USDA ARRA Page" section with a logo for the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act".

# Example of “arrival” at NSF





# Example of “arrival” at NSF



# Example of “arrival” at NSF “prompted activation”

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window with the title "Research.gov - NSF Account Activation". The address bar displays a long URL: [https://www.research.gov/rgov/guest.portal;jsessionid=9TMhJLJWvyYHFZCFDvYVGP5mJJQydQnpFFtBpyGyh4zgMn4wL0I769743509?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=page\\_activation&\\_nfls=false&agency=NSF](https://www.research.gov/rgov/guest.portal;jsessionid=9TMhJLJWvyYHFZCFDvYVGP5mJJQydQnpFFtBpyGyh4zgMn4wL0I769743509?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=page_activation&_nfls=false&agency=NSF). The page features the Research.gov logo and the tagline "POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION". A navigation bar includes links for Home, Contact Us, Site Map, and Help, along with a welcome message for Shauna J. Benson dated March 26, 2009, and a Logout link. The left sidebar contains sections for "My Business Services" (with links to My Business Services Home and Register New Institution), "About Research.gov" (with a "Who We Are" section and a "MORE" link), and a list of "Service Offerings" including Policy Library, Research Spending and Results, Partnership Model, Partner Agency List, Latest News, and Frequently Asked Questions. The main content area is titled "Activate Your Account" and "NSF Account Activation". It contains a message: "This is a one-time process that will enable you to use all of the services that NSF uses through Research.gov." Below this are input fields for "Last Name", "NSF ID" (with a "Privacy Act" link and a "What is my NSF ID?" link), and "Password" (with a "I forgot my NSF Password" link). There are "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons. A note at the bottom of the form states "\*Required Field". The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and a Yahoo! Messenger notification that "ET is now offline".

# User is ready to “work”

**Research.gov Acceptance Server**  
POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Home | Contact Us | Site Map | Help

Welcome Jane Bauer | April 10, 2009 | Logout

**Grants Application Dashboard BETA**

Show my recent grant applications for:  [View All Recent Grant Applications](#)

Agency	Agency Training Number	Submitting Institution	Grant Application Title	Status	Status Date	Requested Amount
CSREES	2007.05000	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	UR time ...	Awarded	03/31/2009	\$5,400,000
CSREES	2007.04070	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Suspend ...	Awarded	03/30/2009	\$649,035
CSREES	2007.04070	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Vivatus ...	Awarded	03/29/2009	\$650,000
CSREES	2007.04070	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Sed ...	Awarded	03/25/2009	\$4,388,870
CSREES	2005.00015	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HA ...	Pending	01/28/2009	\$500,509
CSREES	2005.00073	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HArmy ...	Recome ...	01/14/2009	\$881,016
DoDARO	55055	University of Washington	Loren ...	Pending	01/02/2009	\$284,154
CSREES	2005.04012	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	CYFAR an ...	Awarded	06/30/2008	\$620,000
CSREES	2005.04058	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HA ...	Awarded	06/26/2008	\$454,545
CSREES	2005.04045	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HArmy ...	Awarded	06/24/2008	\$13,882,176

**My Business Services**

**Coming Soon! My Services Summary**

This section will summarize all your services in one location. With just one click you will be able to jump directly to the service status you wish to view. Below is an example of what you can expect in our future release!

**My Services**

NSF Grant Application Status: **15 total applications**  
[Pending \(1\)](#) | [Awarded \(1\)](#) | [Withdrawn \(1\)](#)

CSREES Grant Application Status: **27 total applications**  
[Received \(1\)](#) | [Granted \(1\)](#) | [Not considered \(1\)](#) | [Awarded \(1\)](#) | [Suspended \(1\)](#) | [Withdrawn \(1\)](#) | [Refused \(1\)](#)

**My Profile**  
[View My Profile](#)  
[Add Agency Affiliations](#)

**Events**  
**April 20 - 21, 2009**  
[NSF, CRA, Charles McKon Partnership meeting](#)

**April 26 - 28, 2009**  
[NSF, NASA, NASA, C. McKon Partnership meeting](#)

**April 26 - 29, 2009**  
[NSF, NASA, NASA, C. McKon Partnership meeting](#)

[View All Events](#)

**Promo**  
  
[Why should I use Research.gov?](#)

**Headlines**  
[New Director From NSF-funded ABM&L Demonstrates Climate Variance Affects Airship for Flight Stability](#)

[Cathedral For Wilson's Curatorship, Victoria](#)

[U.S. National Headquarters and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Award National Wildlife Stewards](#)

[View All Headlines](#)

**My Weather**  
 Weather service is not available. Try later.

**Enter Your Zip:**

Privacy Policy | FOIA | No Fear Act Data | USA.gov

Led by The National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA.

# Next time...

- User
  - “Launches” from home institution
  - Arrives at Research.gov
  - Is not asked for NSF ID and password



# Next time the user arrives ready to work!

**Research.gov Acceptance Server**  
POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

Home | Contact Us | Site Map | Help

Welcome Jane Bauer | April 10, 2009 | Logout

### Grants Application Dashboard BETA

Show my recent grant applications for:   [View all Recent Grant Applications](#)

Agency	Agency Tracking Number	Submitting Institution	Grant Application Title	Status	Status Date	Requested Amount
CSREES	2007.05000	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Life me...	Awarded	03/01/2009	\$5,400,000
CSREES	2007.04078	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Suspend...	Awarded	03/00/2009	\$649,035
CSREES	2007.04024	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Vivamus...	Awarded	03/29/2009	\$650,000
CSREES	2007.04208	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	Sed ea...	Awarded	03/25/2009	\$4,369,670
CSREES	2005.00015	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HAa...	Pending	01/28/2009	\$500,909
CSREES	2005.00773	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HA/m...	Recieve...	01/14/2009	\$601,016
DoDARO	55335	University of Washington	Lorem p...	Pending	01/02/2009	\$264,154
CSREES	2008.04012	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	CYPAR an...	Awarded	06/30/2008	\$620,000
CSREES	2008.04058	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HAa...	Awarded	06/26/2008	\$454,545
CSREES	2008.04045	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY	4-HA/m...	Awarded	06/24/2008	\$13,662,176

### My Business Services

#### Coming Soon! My Services Summary

This section will summarize all your services in one location. With just one click you will be able to jump directly to the service status you wish to view. Below is an example of what you can expect in our future release!

#### My Services

NSF Grant Application Status: **15 total applications**  
Pending (0) | Awarded (12) | Not Started (0)

CSREES Grant Application Status: **27 total applications**  
Received (0) | Pending (0) | Recommended (0) | Awarded (13) | Denied (0) | Withdrawn (0) | Returned (0)

Privacy Policy | FOIA | No Fear Act Data | USA.gov

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### My Profile

[View My Profile](#)  
[Add Agency Affiliations](#)

### Events

**April 20 - 21, 2009**  
[NSF Open Challenge Meeting Partnership meeting](#)

**April 26 - 28, 2009**  
[NSF/NSA, Research & Medicine Partnership meeting](#)

**April 26 - 29, 2009**  
[NSF/NSA, Research & Medicine Partnership meeting](#)

[View All Events](#)

### Photos

[Why should I Use Research.gov?](#)

### Headlines

[New Science From NSF-funded AMESL Demonstrates Climate Change Effects Anticipate Sea Level Stability](#)

[Catalytic Free, Volcano's Crater, Volcano](#)

[Full National Headquarters and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Award National Wildlife Stewards](#)

[View All Headlines](#)

### My Weather

Weather service is not available. Try later.

Enter Your Zip:

# What the institutions need to do...

- Five pilot institutions (“beta”)
  - Tech lead: RL “Bob” Morgan U of Washington
  - Ironing out kinks at their end to share experience with others
- Unique user names (pilot institutions have this)
- “Identity proofing”
  - LOA1 (InCommon Bronze)
    - You are who you say you are... vetted by Sponsored Projects Officer
  - LOA2 (InCommon Silver)
    - You will have provided at least the INS (I-9) level of identification of two forms of government-issued ids
    - Anyone hired prior to 1986 may not have done this
- Technical implementation
  - Production “Shib”
  - Login services
  - “application handshakes”
- Sponsored Research Office collaboration
  - “Front end”/“Front door” access
  - User education
  - Ongoing<sub>SU</sub> pport

# A real life example... One University Two Sponsored Research Offices; Two Administrations

## Main Campus

Georgetown University Search | Site Index | Site Map | Directory | About


### Office of Sponsored Programs

Guidelines & Processes	Application Forms	Policies & Regulations	Resources & Links	Awards & News
<a href="#">Preamble</a> <a href="#">Post-Award Information</a>	<a href="#">Proposal Transmittal Form</a> <a href="#">Conflict of Interest Disclosure</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Federal)</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Non-Federal)</a>	<a href="#">Georgetown University Policies</a> <a href="#">U.S. Government Policies</a>	<a href="#">National Institutes of Health</a> <a href="#">National Science Foundation</a> <a href="#">Community of Science</a> <a href="#">Grants.gov</a> <a href="#">Tech Commercialization</a> <a href="#">Contact Us</a> <a href="#">Successful Proposals</a>	<a href="#">News</a> <a href="#">Awards</a>


#### About

The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to provide service to faculty in their pursuit and management of sponsored activities. In support of our mission, we provide the following services:

#### Process Info



You will need Macromedia Flash Player to view the above. Click on the below icon for a free download.



#### Recent News

[NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY - 09.04.08](#) »  
Mandate concerning the publication of NIH funded research effective 4/7/08.

[NSF LIMITED SUBMISSION - 06.03.08](#) »  
NSF Limited Submission to the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Internship Program (IGERT)

[2009 MILEAGE RATES - UPDATED 12/8/08 - 10.12.07](#) »  
IRS issues Updated 2009 mileage rates

[GUSHARE & GRANTS.GOV - 10.04.07](#) »  
Submitting a Grants.gov proposal to OSP through GUShare

[NIH NEW RECEIPT DATES - 12.10.06](#) »  
NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Announces New Receipt Dates Beginning January 2007.

[NIH NEWS UPDATE - 03.05.04](#) »  
Updated NIH Guidelines Now Posted

[ARCHIVED NOTICES - 18.04.05](#) »  
News items and information previously posted on the front page have been transferred to this section.

[NSF NEWS UPDATE - 2008 PROPOSAL AND AWARD POLICIES - 09.10.07](#) »  
NSF News Update - 2008 Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide Posted

## Medical Center

Georgetown MEDICAL CENTER search | site index | site map | directory | about

### Office of Sponsored Research

WHAT WE DO	OFFICE OF SPONSORED RESEARCH	Announcements
WHO WE ARE	Phone: (202) 687-1701 Fax: (202) 687-3825 Email: <a href="mailto:OSRApps@georgetown.edu">OSRApps@georgetown.edu</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adobe-Based Grant Application Forms</li><li>New NIH Policy on Resubmission (Amended) Applications</li><li>Non-Competing Grant Awards under the Current Continuing Resolution</li></ul> <a href="#">More...</a>
FORMS		
GRANTS.GOV		
REGULATIONS		
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES		
INFORMATION FOR INVESTIGATORS	If you have questions or comments about the information in this web site, send them to <a href="mailto:osrapps@georgetown.edu">osrapps@georgetown.edu</a> .	<b>Funding Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DoD Fiscal Year 2009 Breast Cancer Research Program funding opportunities.</li><li>Grant for Probiotics Research</li><li>Young Investigator Grant for Probiotics Research</li></ul> <a href="#">More...</a>
INFORMATION FOR FUNDING AGENCIES		
TRAINING		
search this site		

Office of Sponsored Research  
4000 Reservoir Rd., Washington, DC 20057  
tel. (202) 687-1701

Georgetown UNIVERSITY

Already a resource...  
[adding a link to Research. gov]

Georgetown University Search | Site Index | Site Map | Directory | About

Office of Sponsored Programs

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<a href="#">Preaward</a> <a href="#">Post-Award Information</a>	<a href="#">Proposal Transmittal Form</a> <a href="#">Conflict of Interest</a> <a href="#">Disclosure</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Federal)</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Non-Federal)</a>	<a href="#">Georgetown University Policies</a> <a href="#">U.S. Government Policies</a>	<a href="#">National Institutes of Health</a> <a href="#">National Science Foundation</a> <a href="#">Community of Science</a> <a href="#">Grants.gov</a> <a href="#">Tech. Commercialization</a> <a href="#">Contact Us</a> <a href="#">Successful Proposals</a>	<a href="#">News</a> <a href="#">Awards</a>

**About**  
The mission of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is to provide service to faculty.

**Process Info**

**Recent News**  
[NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY :09.04.08 »](#)  
Mandate concerning the publication of NIH funded research effective 4/7/08.



Example Change: requires collaboration with SRO, IT and, in this case, a contract web developer

Georgetown University Search | Site Index | Site Map | Directory | About

Office of Sponsored Programs

Guidelines & Processes	Application Forms	Policies & Regulations	Resources & Links	Awards & News
<a href="#">Preaward</a> <a href="#">Post-Award Information</a>	<a href="#">Proposal Transmittal Form</a> <a href="#">Conflict of Interest</a> <a href="#">Disclosure</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Federal)</a> <a href="#">Application Forms (Non-Federal)</a>	<a href="#">Georgetown University Policies</a> <a href="#">U.S. Government Policies</a>	<a href="#">National Institutes of Health</a> <a href="#">National Science Foundation</a> <a href="#">Community of Science</a> <a href="#">Grants.gov</a> <a href="#">Tech. Commercialization</a> <a href="#">Contact Us</a> <a href="#">Successful Proposals</a>	<a href="#">News</a> <a href="#">Awards</a>

Home

Links Pages

National Institutes of Health

National Science Foundation

Community of Science

Grants.gov

Tech. Commercialization

Contact Us

Successful Proposals

National Science Foundation

The following are important links on the NSF website:

- [National Science Foundation](#)
- [FastLane](#) (NSF's electronic proposal and award system)
- [Grant Proposal Guide \(GPG\)](#)
- [FAQs on Proposal Preparation](#)
- [Examples of Activities that Demonstrate Broader Impacts](#) (an in-depth discussion of the information that must be addressed in the Project Summary of all NSF proposals)
- [Important Notice #128 - Revision of the NSF Cost Sharing Policy](#)
- [Policy Office](#) (provides information on NSF policies, important notices and FAQs)

Add link for login with GU credentials and link to NSF  
**OR**  
Pass already authenticated GU credentials to NSF

Note: this authentication may also occur off of a special login page initially.

What's happening in  
the research community  
and with federal eAuth?

# “InCommon-research-admin” Pilot

- Goal: intended to accelerate the deployment of federated identity and associated attributes in the research management community.
- Participants
  - University: IT organizations and Sponsored Research Offices
  - Federal Agencies: NIH and NSF, with endorsement of GSA eAuthentication initiative
  - National Organizations: the FDP and InCommon
- Objectives:
  - Inform each other - The diverse communities engaged bring different interests, expertise, terminologies, and challenges that they want to address.
  - Improve current business processes by leveraging the emerging federated identity infrastructure – The primary early focus of the activity is to utilize federations such as InCommon to improve the user experience, provide better security, and protect privacy.
  - Develop reengineered business processes to take advantage of the new technologies Over the course of the work, we hope to better understand how to make other fundamental improvements to the activities of the research administration community through the use of the identity and access infrastructure.

# InCommon-research-admin Objectives

- Work with pilot institutions to anchor and extend the use of existing InCommon infrastructure within the research administration community.
  - initial application base is a set of LOA 1 applications (grant status checks, genome db access, etc.)
  - expanded and complement with better defined strategies for cutover, user support, dissemination, etc.
- Develop strategies for campuses to implement InCommon Silver.
  - LOA 2
  - Leverage real business requirements to improve levels of security and ease of use.
- Use role-based access controls to complement identity based controls.
  - Pilot distributed but coordinated management via federated attributes.
- Understand how the InCommon-research-admin activities relate to other important R&E activities for the promotion of leverage and consistency of practice across the research community.

# InCommon-research-admin

## Expected Outcomes

- A “researchPerson” definition similar to the existing “eduPerson”
- Experiences to share with
  - Other federal agencies
  - Other institutions

# National Institutes of Health

- Creating a federation for inside NIH
- All LOA 1
- Enabling lots of applications
  - But, NOT grants management
  - 5-6 in production now
  - National Library of Medicine is coming on soon
- Soon will have 100,000 users in 9,500 institutions worldwide
- Piloting LOA 2 for grants management<sub>w</sub> ith InCommon



# What's happening with Federal eAuth?

- 2002: government-wide eAuthentication begun
  - A few early adopters
- March 2009: eAuth PMO disbanded
  - Non viable business model
  - Sunset meeting held January 2009
- Responsibility moving from Federal Acquisition Service to Office of Government Policy
  - Agencies can:
    - Buy services off GSA schedule
    - Make their own alliances with other agencies and organizations
  - Move toward more industry-based certifications of products and technologies

# What's happening with Federal eAuth?

- GSA
  - New Leadership: Peter Alterman, Ph.D., Deputy Associate Administrator for Technology Strategy; Office of Governmentwide Policy, GSA
    - Led NIH initiative (toward higher-ed compatibilities)
    - Advocate for university methodologies for many years
  - Recommending using technologies used by InCommon as their new model as of 11/2008
- CIO Council/New Administration
  - Federal Identity, Credential, and Access Management (**ICAM**) Working Groups
    - Citizen services
    - F2F Working group
- <http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication/>



# Background and Supplemental Information

# Shibboleth\*

- “The term originates from the Hebrew word ‘shibboleth’ (שיבולת), which literally means the part of a plant containing grains, such as an ear of corn or a stalk of grain[3] or, in different contexts, ‘stream, torrent’[4][5] It derives from an account in the Hebrew Bible, in which pronunciation of this word was used to distinguish members of a group (the Ephraimites), whose dialect lacked a /ʃ/ sound (from members of a group (the Gileadites) whose dialect did include such a sound.
- “In the Book of Judges, chapter 12, after the inhabitants of Gilead inflicted a military defeat upon the tribe of Ephraim (around 1370–1070 BC), the surviving Ephraimites tried to cross the Jordan River back into their home territory and the Gileadites secured the river's fords to stop them. In order to identify and kill these disguised refugees, the Gileadites put each refugee to a simple test:
- “ ‘Gilead then cut Ephraim off from the fords of the Jordan, and whenever Ephraimite fugitives said, *Let me cross*, the men of Gilead would ask, *Are you an Ephraimite?* If he said, *No*, they then said, *Very well, say Shibboleth*. If anyone said, *Sibboleth*, because he could not pronounce it, then they would seize him and kill him by the fords of the Jordan. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites fell on this occasion.’ ”– [Judges 12:5-6](#), [NJB](#)

\* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shibboleth>

# Security Assertion Markup Language\*

**Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML)** is an [XML](#)-based standard for exchanging [authentication](#) and [authorization](#) data between [security domains](#), that is, between an *identity provider* (a producer of assertions) and a *service provider* (a consumer of assertions). SAML is a product of the [OASIS](#) Security Services Technical Committee.

The single most important problem that SAML is trying to solve is the *Web Browser Single Sign-On* (SSO) problem. [Single sign-on](#) solutions are abundant at the [intranet](#) level (using [cookies](#), for example) but extending these solutions beyond the intranet has been problematic and has led to the proliferation of non-interoperable proprietary technologies. SAML has become the definitive standard underlying many web Single Sign-On solutions in the enterprise [identity management](#) problem space.

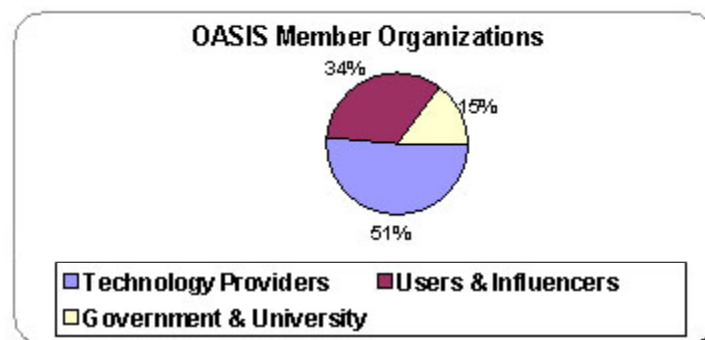
SAML assumes the *principal* (often a user) has enrolled with at least one identity provider. This identity provider is expected to provide local authentication services to the principal. However, SAML does not specify the implementation of these local services; indeed, SAML does not care how local authentication services are implemented (although individual service providers most certainly will).

Thus a service provider relies on the identity provider to identify the principal. At the principal's request, the identity provider passes a SAML assertion to the service provider. On the basis of this assertion, the service provider makes an [access control](#) decision.

\*<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAML>

# OASIS: Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards

- OASIS (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) is a not-for-profit consortium that drives the development, convergence and adoption of open standards for the global information society. The consortium produces more Web services standards than any other organization along with standards for security, e-business, and standardization efforts in the public sector and for application-specific markets. Founded in 1993, OASIS has more than 5,000 participants representing over 600 organizations and individual members in 100 countries.
- Members of note: NIST, NOAA (weather), Internet2, NCSA, etc.
- <http://www.oasis-open.org/who/>



Advancing open standards for the information society

# eduPerson Core Attributes

- eduPersonScopedAffiliation – does this institution subscribe to the service in question? e.g. member@netherhall.cambs.sch.uk, or student@keele.ac.uk
  - **student** (learner), **staff** (non-teaching staff), **faculty** (teaching staff), **employee** (all staff), **member** (comprises all the previous categories), **affiliate** (relationship short of full member), **alum** (ex pupil/alumnus)
- eduPersonTargetedID – persistent opaque identifier – can provide personalisation & usage monitoring across sessions
- eduPersonPrincipalName – the ‘NetID’ of the user, e.g. user@school.lea.sch.uk – a persistent identifier across different services
- eduPersonEntitlement enables an institution to assert that a user satisfies an additional set of specific conditions that apply for access to a particular resource e.g. “entitled to access financial accounts”
- Where extra attributes are required, the federation has a process for the addition of subsidiary attributes, but...

For most applications a combination of eduPersonScopedAffiliation and eduPersonTargetedID will be sufficient

# Resources

- <http://www.incommonfederation.org/>
- <http://www.incommonfederation.org/assurance/>
- <http://www.Internet2.edu>
- <http://shibboleth.internet2.edu/>
- <http://middleware.internet2.edu/eduperson/>
- <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/PubsSPs.html>

# International Activities

- <http://www.terena.org/activities/refeds/>
  - A summary of discussions among R&E networks, including a survey of national efforts
- <http://www.jisclegal.ac.uk/access/>
  - Excellent policy analytics, especially around international issues of privacy, peering, and attributes
- <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/>
  - TransEuropean activities in IdM for use among citizens, governments, and businesses

# Acknowledgments

- Bill Altmire, Shauna Benson and David Lotts; NSF
- Steve Carmody, Brown University
- Ken Klingenstein, InCommon
- Ann West, Internet2
- John Chapman, Project Adviser, Technical Policy and Standards. “The UK Access Management Federation for education and research”. Becta. <http://www.becta.org.uk>

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# Questions?